

M E R C A T O R:

Or, Commerce Retrieved.

Being CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade.

From Saturday, August 1. to Tuesday August 4. 1713.

THE Disputes for and against the Bill for making Effectual the 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaty of Commerce with France have been Carried on with great Warmth, and no want of Ignorance by the Parties on both Sides; while it is to be feared, few of the Hottest Opposers of it know, what the Bill it Self was.

For this reason it is thought very Just, that a True Copy of the said Bill be made Publick, that it may Speak for it Self: For it is the honest Intent of this Paper, to help every Man to a clear Knowledge of every Particular, that they may have nothing first Artfully concealed, and then falsly represented to them, in order to deceive them.

Wherefore, The Copy of the Bill it self is hereunder Printed at length.

By which it will appear, that the Design was only to form a just Equality of Duties and Prohibitions, in pursuance of the said 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaty, and to Explain such Expressions, as were by some alledged to be Doubtful and Unintelligible therein.

And as it plainly appears by the Bill it self, that none of those false and malicious Suggestions of permitting our Wooll to be Carried into France, or of any thing prejudicial to the English Commerce, or to our Woollen Manufactures, are contained in this Bill, or that there has been any Colour for such Reports and Suggestions, nor could any honest Man entertain such a Notion of a Parliament of Britain, especially of such a House of Commons as the present, who have upon all Occasions shewn themselves so much in the true Interest of their Country.

The Bill to make Effectual the 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Great Britain and France.

May it please your most Excellent Majesty,

WHEREAS a Treaty of Navigation and Commerce between your Majesty and Lewis the XIV. the most Christian King, was concluded at Utrecht on the 31st Day of March, in the Year of our Lord 1713. and by the 8th Article of the said Treaty, it is agreed and concluded as a general Rule, that all and singular the Subjects of your Majesty and of the said King, in all Countries and Places subject to your Majesty's and his Power on each side, as to all Duties, Impositions, or Customs whatsoever, concerning Persons, Goods and Merchandizes, Ships, Freight, Seamen, Navigation and Commerce, shall use and enjoy the same Privileges, Liberties, and Immunities at least, and have the like Favour in all things, as well in the Courts of Justice, as in all such things, as relate either to Commerce, or to any other Right whatsoever, which any Foreign Nation, the most favour'd, hath, useth and enjoyeth, or may hereafter have, use, and enjoy.

And by the 9th Article of the said Treaty it is farther agreed, that within the space of two Months after, a Law should be made in Great Britain, whereby it should be sufficiently provided, That no more Customs or Duties be paid for Goods and Merchandizes brought from France to Great Britain, than what are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like nature Imported into Great Britain from any other Country in Europe, and that all Laws made in Great Britain since the Year 1664. for prohibiting the Importation of any Goods and Merchandizes coming from France, which were not prohibited before that time, be repealed. The general Tariff made in France the 18th day of September in the year 1664. shall take place there again, and the Duties payable in France by the Subjects of Great Britain for Goods Imported and Exported, shall be paid according to the Tenour of the Tariff abovementioned, and shall not exceed the Rule therein settled in the Provinces, whereof mention is there made; and in the other Provinces, the Duties shall not be payable otherwise than according to the Rule at that time prescribed; and all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations or Decrees made in France since the said Tariff of the Year 1664, and contrary therunto, in respect to the Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain, shall be repeal'd.

In which 9th Article, as also in certain Instruments relating thereunto, other Provision is made touching some particular Goods or Merchandizes and other Matters therein specified, as by the said Treaty of Navigation and Commerce, and the said separate Instruments, Relation bearing thereunto respectively had, may more fully and at large appear.

Now to the End, that no more Customs or Duties may be payable for Goods and Merchandizes brought from France to Great Britain, than what are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like nature Imported into Great Britain from any other Country in Europe, and that all Laws made in Great Britain since the said Year 1664, for prohibiting the Importation of any Goods and Merchandizes coming from France, which were not prohibited before that time, may be repealed, so that your Majesty's Subjects may speedily have, use, and enjoy the Benefit of the said Tariff, and other Benefits and Advantages of Trade, according to the Tenour and true Meaning of the said Tariff.

We your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, do humbly pray your Majesty, that it may be Enacted, and be it Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Content of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Duties of 25 l. for every Ton of French Wine, and 30 l. for every Ton of French Brandy of single Proof, and 60 l. for every Ton of French Brandy of double Proof, and 15 l. for every Ton of French Vinegar, and 25 l. per Cent. ad valorem,

rem, for all other Goods of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of France, and so proportionably for greater or lesser Quantities Imported, by an Act made in the 7th Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King William, intituled, An Act for granting to his Majesty an additional Duty upon all French Goods and Merchandizes, in regard these Duties, or any of them, or any part thereof, are not chargeable upon the like Goods and Merchandizes Imported from any other foreign part, shall cease and determine as to all such of the said French Goods and Merchandizes chargeable by that Act, as shall be Imported into Great Britain from and after the Expiration of two Months, to be reckon'd from and after the first day of July 1713, and shall not be due or payable during the Residue of the Term and Time, for which the said Additional Duties were by the last mention'd Act granted, any thing in the same Act or any other Act contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And whereas by an Act made in the 9th Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King William III. it was enacted, That all and every Person and Persons, who should from and after the 25th day of March 1698. Import or cause to be Imported, or should from and after the 24th day of December 1698. sell, barter, or offer to Sale or Barter, or should knowingly keep in his, her, or their Custody, for Sale or for the Use or Benefit of any Importer or Dealer, any such foreign Lace, as amongst other things is therein mention'd, should forfeit and lose the Sum of 20 s. per Yard, together with all the said Lace, and the Importation, Selling, Bartering, offering to Sale or Barter, or knowingly keeping for that purpose any such foreign Lace, is thereby declared to be a common Nuisance. And by an Act made in the 5th Year of her Majesty's Reign, intituled, An Act to repeal all the Laws prohibiting the Importation of foreign Bone-lace made of Thread, reciting that the former Acts for prohibiting or restraining the Importation of foreign Lace, or for rendering the Laws more effectual for preventing the Importation of foreign Lace, had obstructed the Exportation and vending or selling of the Woollen Manufactures of England in the Spanish Low-Countries and other Places abroad; it was Enacted, That all Acts of Parliament whatsoever, made at any time before the said Act of the 5th Year of her Majesty's Reign, for prohibiting or restraining the Importation, vending or selling of foreign Lace, should from thenceforth be repeal'd so far forth, as they relate to such foreign Lace made of Thread in the Spanish Low-Countries, or in any other place, not within the Dominions of the French King, provided at the same time, that nothing in that Act contain'd, should extend to permit or allow the Importation of Lace made in any of the Dominions of the French King, or in any such other Lands, Towns, or Countries as are therein mention'd.

Now for the better pursuing the End and Intent of the two Articles of the Treaty before mention'd, it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Acts of Parliament heretofore made for prohibiting or restraining the Importation, vending or selling of foreign Lace, so far forth as the said Acts, or any of them, relate to foreign Lace made of Thread within the Dominions of the said French King, shall likewise be repeal'd, and that the same Acts, and every Clause, Matter and Thing in them contain'd, so far as they relate to such foreign Lace made of Thread, within the Dominions of the same King, be and are hereby repeal'd and made void from and after the said Expiration of two Months, to be reckon'd from the said first day of July 1713, any thing therein contain'd to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, That if her Majesty after the Expiration of two Months, to be reckon'd from the said first day of July 1713, and before the beginning of the Session of Parliament then next ensuing, shall find, that her Subjects shall not have, use, and enjoy the Benefits of Trade and Commerce in France, and other Advantages, according to the Tenour and true Meaning of the said Treaty in that behalf; then her Majesty may be graciously pleas'd, by her Royal Proclamation under the Great Seal of Great Britain to declare, that this present Act shall cease and determine.

And it is hereby Enacted, That from and after the End or Expiration of 20 days, to be reckon'd from the time of Issuing and Publishing such Proclamation, this present Act, and every Clause, Matter and Thing therein contain'd, shall cease, determine, and become void, and then and from thenceforth, all and every the Rates, Duties, Impositions and Sums of Money by this Act taken away, lessen'd or alter'd, and all the Prohibitions and Restrictions by this Act repeal'd, shall be reviv'd and be in full force to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made, any thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

And whereas during the late Wars between the Crowns of Great Britain and France, several Acts of Parliament were made against Trading with France, whereby the Importation of French Goods was Prohibited in the manner and form therein respectively mention'd; and during the Continuance of the same Acts, or some of them, certain Duties were imposed upon the Importation of foreign Goods and Merchandizes by general Words in other Acts of Parliament in that behalf made: And although the said Acts prohibiting Trade with France are all of them now expired, it may nevertheless be doubted, whether the general Words in the said Acts imposing such Duties, will extend to French Goods of the same kind; and it being reasonable to make Provision by Authority of Parliament, that the like Customs and Duties be paid for such Goods and Merchandizes brought from France into Great Britain, as are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like nature Imported from any other foreign part, it is hereby Enacted, That the like Customs and Duties be paid for such Goods and Merchandizes brought from France into Great Britain, as are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like nature Imported from any other foreign part, it is hereby Enacted, That the like Customs and Duties be paid for such Goods and Merchandizes brought from France into Great Britain, as are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like nature Imported from any other foreign part.

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That therefore further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Additional and other Rates and Impositions, Duties and Charges upon several sorts of Goods and Merchandizes, which were granted by one Act of Parliament, made in the 2d Year of the Reign of King William and Queen Mary, Entituled, An Act for granting to their Majesties certain Impositions upon all East-India Goods and Manufactures, and upon all wrought Silks, and several other Goods and Merchandizes, to be Imported after the 25th Day of December, 1690. and which thereby, and by several subsequent Acts of Parliament since expired, were continued until the first Day of August, 1712. and which by an Act made in the 6th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to have continuance until the first Day of August, 1714. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed, and by which an Act of Parliament, made in the 7th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to have continuance until the first Day of August, 1716. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed, and which by an Act of Parliament made in the 8th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to have continuance until the first Day of August, 1720. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed, and which by an Act made in the 9th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to continue for Ever, for the Uses and Purposes, and subject to such Redemption as in the last mentioned Act are expressed (except as in the said Acts, or any of them, is excepted) shall be charged and chargeable upon such of the said Goods and Merchandizes of the like Nature, which from, and after the expiration of the said two Months, to be reckoned from the said first Day of July, 1713. shall be brought from France to Great-Britain, during the continuance of the same Acts respectively, as fully as such Goods or Merchandizes from France would have been charged or chargeable by the said Act of the Second Year of their late Majesties Reign, if there had been no Prohibition of Trade and Commerce with France, at the time of making thereof; and that the same Act of the Second Year of their late Majesties Reign, and all the Provisions, Penalties and Forfeitures, and Clauses contained therein, or in any subsequent Acts relating thereunto, shall be in Force, and be applied and executed for raising, levying, and paying such Rates and Impositions upon such Goods and Merchandizes so brought from France, as aforesaid, and for the several Uses and Purposes in the said Acts respectively mentioned, and subject to such Allowances, Drawbacks, Matters and Things, as are thereby prescribed as fully, as if the said Act of the 2d Year of their late Majesties Reign; and every Clause, matter and thing therein, or in such subsequent Act or Acts contained, were again repeated and re-enacted, excepting always as to such kinds of the same Goods and Merchandizes, touching which, any other Provisions or Alterations are to have been made by any Act or Acts of Parliament now in Force, which other Provisions and Alterations shall be duly observed, during the continuance of the said Acts respectively.

And be it farther Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That such, or the like Additional and other Rates, Impositions, Duties and Charges upon several sorts of Goods and Merchandizes, which were granted by one Act of Parliament made in the 4th Year of the Reign of the said late King William and Queen Mary, Entituled, An Act for granting to their Majesties certain Additional Impositions upon several Goods and Merchandizes for prosecuting the present War against France, and which thereby, and by several subsequent Acts of Parliament since expired, were continued until the first Day of August, 1712. and which by an Act made in the 6th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to have continuance until the first Day of August, 1714. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed, and which by an Act made in the 7th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to have continuance until the first Day of August, 1716. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed, and which by an Act made in the 8th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to have continuance until the first Day of August, 1720. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed, and which by an Act of Parliament made in the 9th Year of her Majesty's Reign, are to have continuance for Ever, for the Uses and Purposes, and subject to such Redemption, as in the last mentioned Act are expressed (other then, and except such of the said Additional Rates and Duties, or such parts of the same, touching which, other Provision is hereafter made in this present Act) shall be charged and chargeable upon such of the said Goods and Merchandizes, which from and after the Expiration of the said two Months, to be reckoned from the said first Day of July, 1713. shall be brought from France to Great-Britain, as by the said Act of the 4th Year of their late Majesties Reign, or by the said Acts for continuing the same, are charged or chargeable upon Goods and Merchandizes of like nature, Imported from other Countries, and shall have continuance for the Uses and Purposes, and subject to such Redemption as in the said respective Acts now in Force are mentioned, and that the same Act of the 4th Year of their said late Majesty's Reign, and all the Provisions, Penalties and Forfeitures, and Clauses contained therein, or in any subsequent Act or Acts relating thereunto, shall be in force, and be applied and executed for raising, levying, and paying such Additional Impositions or Duties upon such Goods and Merchandizes so brought from France, as aforesaid, and every part and parcel thereof, to stand for the several Uses and Purposes in the said Acts respectively mentioned, and subject to such Allowances, Drawbacks, Matters and Things, as are hereby prescribed as fully, as if the said Act of the 4th Year of their late Majesties Reign, and every Clause, Matter and Thing therein, or in such subsequent Act or Acts contained, were again repeated and re-enacted, provided always, that in all Cases, where any other Provision or Alteration is made by any other Act or Acts of Parliament now in being, touching or concerning any the Additional Rates, Duties, Impositions or Charges last mentioned, such other Provisions or Alterations shall be observed according to the true meaning thereof, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And whereas by the said Act of the 4th Year of their late Majesties Reign, and by the said Acts for continuing the same, there was and is Imposed upon all French Goods and Merchandizes (except as therein is excepted) 25 l. for every hundred Pounds value thereof, more than the same were before charged with in the Book of Rates, and so in Proportion for any greater or lesser Quantity (which Duty of 25 l. per Cent. is not chargeable upon the like Goods and Merchandizes Imported from any other Foreign Parts.) Be it therefore farther provided and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the said Duty of 25 l. per Cent. shall cease and determine, as to all such of the said French Goods chargeable by the said Acts in that behalf, as shall be Imported into Great-Britain, from and after the Expiration of the said two Months,

to be reckoned from the said first Day of July, 1713. any thing herein, or in this present Act contained to the contrary, notwithstanding.

And whereas the whole of the Duties chargeable on the Importation of French Wines (besides the said Duty of 25 l. per Ton, which by this Act is appointed to cease and determine, as aforesaid) being compared with the whole of the Duties chargeable upon Portugal Wines, as being the Nation whose Wines are most favoured, in point of Duties in Great-Britain.) It is evident, that the said Duties on French Wines (over and above the said Duty of 25 l. per Ton) do exceed the said Duties upon Portugal Wines, by the Sum of 4 l. in every Ton, and after that Rate or Proportion, in greater or lesser Quantities.

And whereas by the said Act, of the 4th Year of their late Majesties Reign, and by the said Acts for continuing the same, there was and is Imposed for every Ton of French Wine Imported 8 l. above all Duties charged thereupon in the Book of Rates, or by any Law made before the said Act of the 4th Year of their late Majesties Reign; now it is hereby Provided and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that for Establishing a Parity between the Duties of French Wines and Portugal, according to the Purport and true meaning of the said Treaty, one moiety or half part only, of the said Duty of eight Pounds for every Ton of French Wines, shall continue, and be payable during the said Acts respectively, and the other moiety or half part of the said Duty of eight Pounds for every Ton of French Wines that shall be Imported into Great-Britain, from, and after the Expiration of the said two Months, to be reckoned from the first Day of July, 1713. shall cease and determine, any thing herein, or in any other Act of Parliament to the contrary, notwithstanding. It being intended that the Duties upon French Goods shall be equal to the Duties which by the said Act of the 4th Year of their late Majesties Reign, and by the Acts for continuing the same, are chargeable for Goods of the like Nature to be Imported from all other parts of Europe, other then as to the said Duty of eight Pound per Ton on French Wines, whereof one moiety is to determine, and the other moiety is to continue, and be payable, according to the Purport and true meaning of this Act.

And be it farther Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases whereby general Words in any Act or Acts of Parliament made or passed, during the Prohibitions of Trade and Commerce with France, or any of them, any Duties or Customs or Excise, or any Rates, Duties, Impositions, or Sums of Money whatsoever (excepting such touching which other Provision is before made in this present Act) were granted or continued upon the Importation of any Foreign Goods, Merchandizes, or Commodities whatsoever (whether the same Rates, Duties, or Impositions were granted or continued for any Term or Terms of Year now in being, or unexpired, or in perpetuity) for any Use or Uses, Purpose or Purposes whatsoever; the like Rates, Duties, Impositions, and Sums of Money, shall be understood to be due and payable, and shall be charged and chargeable from and after the Expiration of the said two Months, to be reckoned from the said first Day of July, 1713. upon Goods, Merchandizes, and Commodities of the like Nature, which shall be brought from France into Great-Britain, during the continuance of the last mentioned Acts of Parliament respectively, as fully as the said Goods, Merchandizes and Commodities from France, would have been charged or chargeable with the same Rates, Duties, Impositions, or Sums of Money, by the general Words of the said Acts, for granting or continuing the same, if no Prohibition of the Trade and Commerce with France, had been at the time or times of making or passing the said Acts respectively, and that the same Acts, and all the Provisions, Penalties and Forfeitures, and Clauses therein contained, shall be in Force, and be applied and executed, for raising, levying, and paying the Rates, Duties, Impositions and Sums of Money last mentioned (except as aforesaid) upon such of the said Goods, Merchandizes and Commodities, as may be Imported or brought from France, for the several Uses and Purposes mentioned in the said Acts now in Force, and subject to such Drawbacks, Allowances, Matters and Things, as are thereby prescribed, during the continuance of the same Acts respectively, as fully and effectually as if the same Acts, and every Clause, Matter and Thing therein contained, were again repeated and re-enacted in this present Act.

Provided always, That in all Cases where any other Provision or Alteration is made by any other Act or Acts of Parliament now in being, touching any the Goods, Merchandizes, or Commodities so to be Imported or brought in, or the Duties thereof, such other Provisions or Alterations shall always be observed, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided also, that this Act, or any thing therein contained, shall not extend to repeal, or alter any Law or Laws relating to the Importation of any Goods or Merchandizes into Great-Britain, which were in Force in the said Year 1664. any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, and it is hereby declared by the Authority aforesaid, that that part of the Ninth Article of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation above recited, whereby it is agreed, that all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations or Decrees, made in France, since the Tariff of the Year 1664. and contrary thereunto, in respect to the Goods and Merchandizes of Great-Britain, shall be repealed, is, and shall be intended to extend not only to the Goods of the Growth, Production and Manufacture of Great-Britain, but also to all Goods and Merchandizes which the Subjects of Great-Britain did, or might Import into or Export from France, at any time since the making of the said Tariff of the 18th of September, 1664. and to such British Ships and Vessels, wherein the same shall be Imported, except as the Species of Goods and Merchandizes, excepted by the said 9th Article, the Consideration of which is referred to Commissaries, to be appointed on both Sides; a particular Specification of which Merchandizes was executed at Utrecht, the 28th Day of April, 1713. by the Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries of her Majesty, and of the most Christian King.

As to which excepted Species of Merchandize, it is hereby farther declared by the Authority aforesaid, that by the 8th and 9th Articles of the said Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, it is and shall be intended, that the Subjects of Great-Britain shall, and may at all time hereafter, Import into France all sorts of Merchandizes, comprehended under the said excepted Species, and enjoy all Privileges, Immunities and Exemptions of Duties, in respect thereof, which the Subjects of any Nation or State the most favoured, have, use, enjoy, or are exempted from, or shall have, use, enjoy, or be hereafter exempted from concerning the like kinds or Species of Merchandize.